



EPIDENDRUM FRANCKEI Hágsater  
THE GENUS EPIDENDRUM PART 4

*EPIDENDRUM FRANCKEI* Hágsater, *sp. nov.*

Type: PERU: Cajamarca, hort. Mexico City, col. Oscar F. Francke, pressed 2 July 2003, *E. Hágsater* 12431. Holotype: USM! Isotype: AMO! (Illustration voucher).

*Epidendro denticulato* Barb. Rodr. simile sed sepalis petalisque obtusis, petalis latioribus margine erosis et venatione ramosa, labelli lobulo medio respectu lobulis lateralibus minore, callis albis, maculam coloratam in disco non formanti differt.

**Hierba** terrestre, cespitosa, erecta, de 90 cm de alto o más. **Raíces** basales, carnosas, delgadas, 2.2 mm de grosor. **Tallos** sencillos, tipo caña, teretes, delgados, rectos, de más de 25-30 x 0.4-0.5 cm. **Hojas** 12, alternas, distribuidas a lo largo de los 2/3 apicales del tallo; vaina tubular, finamente estriada, 1.5-2.8 x 0.37-0.54 cm; lámina coriácea, lisa, oblongo elíptica, ápice redondeado, levemente bilobado, margen diminutamente eroso, 3.2-7.4 x 1.4-2.6 cm. **Bráctea espátacea** ausente. **Inflorescencia** apical, racemosa, elongada, 30 cm de largo; pedúnculo alargado, terete, delgado, 27 cm de largo, cubierto casi en su totalidad por 6 vainas tubulares, agudas, finamente estriadas, 3.3-5.5 x 0.2-0.35 cm; del ápice del pedúnculo inicial se produce otro de características semejantes y de este a su vez otro más corto; raquis abreviado, terete, 2 cm de largo. **Flores** 8, simultáneas, no resupinadas, color rosado, ápice de la columna y callos blancos; sin fragancia. **Brácteas florales** mucho más cortas que el ovario, triangular lanceoladas, agudas, 2-4 mm de largo. **Ovario** terete, delgado, no inflado, no ornamentado, 16-23 mm de largo. **Sépalos** extendidos, libres, angostamente obovados, obtusos, con una quilla dorsal diminuta, 5-6-nervados, margen extendido y entero, 11 x 4.2 mm; los **laterales** oblicuos. **Pétalos** extendidos, libres, angostamente obovados, obtusos, 3-nervados, las nervaduras laterales muy ramificadas en los 2/3 apicales dando la apariencia de ser 5 ó 6 nervados; margen extendido, la mitad apical eroso, 11 x 4.2 mm. **Labelo** unido a la columna, trilobado, base ampliamente cordada, margen profundamente fimbriado, 8 x 13 mm; bicalloso, los callos prominentes, alargados hasta cerca de la base del istmo, disco provisto de una quilla intercallosa pequeña, desvaneciéndose antes de llegar a seno apical; lóbulos laterales semioblicuos, el margen basal casi recto, 5.5 x 6 mm; lóbulo medio flabelado, ápice bilobado, algo divaricado, con un seno profundo, 3 x 4.5 mm. **Columna** recta, delgada, obcónica en el ápice, ápice bidentado, 10 mm de largo. **Clinandrio** reducido, aserrado a los lados. **Antera** ovada, aguda, 4-locular. **Polinios** 4, obovoides, lateralmente comprimidos; caudículas más largas que los polinios, formadas por tétradas en forma de tejas apliladas. **Rostelo** subapical, hendido. **Lóbulos laterales del estigma** erosos, de 1/3 del largo de la cavidad estigmática. **Nectario** penetrando cerca de la mitad del ovario, finamente papiloso. **Cápsula** no vista.

Terrestrial, caespitose, erect, **herb.** **Roots** basal, fleshy, thin. **Stems** simple, cane-like, terete, thin, straight. **Leaves** 12, distributed throughout the apical 2/3 of the stems, sheath tubular, minutely striated; blade coriaceous, smooth, oblong-elliptic, apex rounded, slightly bilobed, margin entire. **Inflorescence** apical, racemose, elongate; peduncle elongate, terete, thin, covered nearly totally by acute, tubular, sheaths; rachis abbreviated, terete; produces successive racemes, sometimes on equally long peduncles. **Flowers** 8, simultaneous, non-resupinate, pink with the apex of the column and calli white, without fragrance. **Floral bracts** much shorter than the ovary, triangular, lanceolate, acute. **Ovary** terete, thin, smooth. **Sepals** spreading, free, narrowly obovate, obtuse, with a minute dorsal keel, 5-6 veined, margin spreading and entire, the laterals oblique. **Petals** spreading, free, narrowly obovate, obtuse, 3-veined, the lateral veins much branched so as to appear 5 or 6 veined; margin spreading, the apical half erose. **Lip** united to the column, 3-lobed, base widely cordate, margin deeply fimbriate; bicallose, the calli prominent, reaching the base of the isthmus, with a prominent intermediate, short keel; lateral lobes semiobicular, the posterior margin nearly straight, midlobe flabellate, the apex bilobed somewhat divaricate, with a deep sinus. **Column** straight, thin, the apex bidentate. **Clinandrium** hood reduced, entire, the sides serrate. **Anther** ovate, acute, 4-celled. **Pollinia** 4, obovoid, laterally compressed, caudicles longer than the pollinia, formed by tetrads which appear as stacked roof-tiles. **Rostellum** subapical, slit. **Nectary** penetrating about half the ovary, minutely papillose.

**OTHER SPECIMENS:** None seen.

**DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY:** Known only from cultivated material originally from the Province of Cajamarca in northern Peru. Flowering in July in cultivation in Mexico.

**RECOGNITION:** *Epidendrum franckei* belongs to the Calanthum Subgroup of the Secundum Group which is characterized by the caespitose habit, simple, terete, stems, numerous, oblong-elliptic, bilobed, leaves, mostly elongate inflorescence, with a raceme of successive flowers, the lip with two calli and a prominent, flexuous keel. The species is recognized by the non-resupinate, pink flowers flowering simultaneously, the apex of the column and calli white, obtuse sepals and petals, the erose petals somewhat wider than the sepals and the lip with large, extended, semiobicular lateral lobes and a smaller, bifid midlobe. It closely somewhat resembles *Epidendrum denticulatum* which has somewhat acuminate sepals and petals, the petals with non-branching veins and entire margins, the midlobe of the lip proportionately larger, and a white spot on the disc covering more than the calli.



**CONSERVATION STATUS:** DD. Data deficient.

**ETYMOLOGY:** In honor of Oscar F. Francke, amateur orchidologist from Mexico City, who provided a keiki of the plant which was then cultivated in the live collection of the AMO herbarium until flowering.

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